

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"

President
Amor "Skip" Portale
Vice President
Ellsworth Ott
2nd Vice President
Charles "Chick" Kisby



Secretary
Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer
Jaime C. Mellon

February 17, 2010

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Feb. 17, 2010 at the Longport Fire Dept. by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

Chief Clayton of the Longport Fire Company was introduced. Chief Clayton welcomed all to Longport. Chief Clayton introduced Mayor Nick Russo. Mayor Russo welcomed all to Longport and noted the importance of face to face meetings such as this to keep the true brotherhood in the county fire service instead of using only electronic communications.

In Attendance

Roll call was taken by Secretary Robert A. Mellon who reported a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the Jan. 20, 2010 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Report of Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer, totaling \$93,279.40, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Checking: \$20,877.62 / Savings: \$4,672.63 / 18 Month CD-8286: \$51,825.22 / 9 Month CD-4418: \$10,286.71 / 9 Month CD-9551: \$5,617.22
Due 3/1/2011 Due 2/27/2010 Due 9/6/2010

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. offered thanks to the association officers and executive committeemen for the hard work over the past year. Howard offered special thanks to Stacey Wellington for serving as the association treasurer for two years. Howard welcomed the new treasurer of the association and expects a similarly good working relationship. Howard reported that he was reelected as Chairman and Oscar Dutch was reelected as Asst. Chairman at the Jan. 8th meeting of the executive committee. Howard reported that at that same meeting the executive committee accepted and approved the 2010 administrative, training, and public relations budgets. Howard reported that the executive committee is recommending that the association purchase a plaque to recognize Stacey Wellington for her service as the treasurer in 2008 and 2009. The next meeting of the executive committee is on Mar. 5, 2010.

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Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold Jr. reported that the board reviewed ongoing training center operations at the last meeting. The next meeting of the board is on Mar. 8, 2010.

Fire Coordinator – Oscar Dutch gave a report for Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent, who was unable to be in attendance. Oscar reported on the current status of the equipment grant applications. Oscar reported that a new information form needs to be filled out and returned to the NJ DFS. This form is required to be on file before applying for grants. The form is available on the ACFFA Fire Coordinator webpage. Oscar reported on a meeting scheduled for the Large Diameter Hose Task Force. Lefty Clayton reported on the current status of the foam trailer and equipment being purchased with grant monies.

Public Relations – Fire Marshal Harold "Whitey" Swartz reported on the fire departments that still need to submit fire reports for the 2009 county report. The departments still needing to file some or all of 2009 reports are: Atl. City Airport, Atlantic City, Buena Vista Twp. Sta. 3 (Newtonville), Estell Manor, Hammonton, Laureldale, Margate, Milmay, and Weymouth. Please contact Whitey as soon as possible with fire reports. One more request will be sent out then the report will be submitted with the current submissions. Whitey reported on the NJ fire prevention poster contest and that submissions should be sent before Mar. 15th. Whitey reported that valor award nominations are currently being accepted. Whitey reported that he would like all updates to the county information book to be submitted soon. There are currently many updates and a whole new book will be distributed soon for the existing binders. Whitey reported that the Fallen Heroes Monument Memorial Service will be scheduled on a weekend in the fall. Whitey reported that he currently has fifteen names submitted for the list of county firefighters with fifty or more years of active service. Please contact Whitey if your department has any fifty+ years of service members. Whitey reported that the 200 Club Cape/Atlantic Memorial Service and Brunch is scheduled for Apr. 18th.

Library – Ron Bird reported that the library is open and if anything is needed, please contact him. Progress is being made with inventorying and organizing the library.

Training – Director of Training, Mike Corbo reported that the training webpage has the course book available for viewing, downloading, and printing. The course book has also been sent to all fire departments. Mike reported that the FFI graduation went very well and was enjoyed by all in attendance. Mike reported that there are fifty-two classes scheduled this semester. This is the most classes run in one semester. Mike reported that the current FFI class will be challenging due to the number of Cape May County students. In order to make the class more manageable, drill ground instruction will be split into two sessions. One for each county. This will also allow for proper billing to the Cape May County departments for their training. Due to the number of students in the FFI class, the Downbeach Air Trailer will be utilized during drill ground instruction so to keep up with the volume of bottle fills.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Jim Garth reported that the next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association will be on Mar. 25, 2010 in Landisville. Jim also reported on recent incidents across the country involving magnesium engine blocks.

NJ Forest Fire – President Portale reported that he will request that the NJ Forest Fire Service do a presentation at the next association meeting in March.

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Legislative – President Portale reported that Rick Sepe from Hammonton will serve on the legislative committee and report any items of interest to the association that are under legislative consideration. Any others wishing to serve on this committee should contact President Portale.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported on the ongoing renovations and updates at the home.

NJ Firemen's Assn. – President Portale thanked Henry Schoenstein for arranging a workshop that was held in January. It was very informative. Henry Schoenstein thanked all that attended the workshop and noted that there were fifty-six names on the sign in sheet. Henry reminded all that financial reports are due on Feb. 20th; green sheets are due Feb. 28th. Henry reported that at a recent meeting there was lengthy discussion about lowering the qualifying percentage to 50% from the current 60%.

Audit Committee – President Portale reported that due to a change in the office of association treasurer, the accountant will audit the books.

ACFFA Dinner – Wayne Dilks reported that the dinner is scheduled for 18:30 on Friday, April 16, 2010 at Careme's, Atl. Cape Comm. College. Please RSVP by April 1st. Cost is \$40.00 per person.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

President Portale informed all that he is accepting resumes of those interested in the vacant office of the Asst. Secretary-Treasurer. So far one resume has been received and any other submissions should be made before the next meeting.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association donate \$200.00 to the NJ Firemen's Home Golf Tournament.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the treasurer purchase a CD at the best possible rate when the 9 Month CD-4418, due on Feb. 27th, becomes available.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association accept the capitol purchase plans for training and administration.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association purchase a plaque honoring Stacey Wellington for two years service as the association treasurer.

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Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association purchase an administrative laptop utilizing the 2009 capitol request of \$750.00 and additional funds needed, not to exceed a total cost of \$900.00

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association purchase a ventilation/rescue saw and blades, from the training capitol, totaling \$2,454.00.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$5,354.98, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Liberty Mutual - \$993.00 / Mo's Catering - \$600.00 / MES - \$205.00 / Staples - \$137.40 / Lowes - \$32.04 / Primos - \$238.00 / Wayne Dilks - \$100.00 / Robert Mellon - \$395.54 / NJ Firemen's Home - \$200.00 / Continental Fire - \$2,454.00

Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership to act on.

Good of the Order

Chief Lefty Clayton reported that a meeting was held in Longport recently with state representatives concerning municipal record keeping. The question of whether volunteer fire companies are required to make documents public was asked. The state responded that it had already been determined, back in 1964, that volunteer fire company records are indeed public documents. As such, requests to destroy older documents must be submitted to the state and there are certain requirements for redacting information on some documents before release. Documents such as minutes, fire reports, financials, training, etc. are public and have varying requirements as to the length of time they must be kept. Note that emails utilized in the conduct of business are also official documents. Some records, such as personnel files, are to remain confidential.

Howard Berchtold reminded all departments should be careful when filing their IRS 990 forms. Any grants received are to be considered income.

Howard Berchtold reported that Ted Reinhard is doing well since having surgery and is at home and continuing his rehab. Ted sends his regards.

President Portale congratulated the departments that have received federal grants during the latest round.

Thank you to the Longport Fire Department for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

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Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 20:45. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Mar. 17, 2010 in Folsom.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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Date Clearing

Sun. Mar. 14, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Thurs. Mar. 25, 2010	20:00	Landisville VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Sat. Apr. 10, 2010	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. Apr. 10, 2010	19:30	Hammonton VFC #2	Comedy Show and Buffet Dinner
Sun. Apr. 11, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Fri. Apr. 16, 2010	18:30	Careme's @ ACCC	2010 ACFFA Dinner
Sun. Apr. 18, 2010	10:30	St. Nicholas & Borgata	200 Club 25 th Annual Cape/Atlantic Memorial Service and Brunch
Sat. May 1, 2010	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sun. May 9, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Thurs. May 27, 2010	20:00	Northfield VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Sat. Jun. 5, 2010	12:00	Cologne VFC	Annual Chicken BBQ
Sun. Jun. 13, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sun. Jul. 4, 2010	12:00	Dorothy VFC	75th Anniversary, Parade, and Celebration
Sun. Jul. 11, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Thurs. Jul. 22, 2010	20:00	Dorothy VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firemen's Death Benefit Fund
Tues. Jul. 27, 2010	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Sun. Aug. 15, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sun. Sep. 12, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Thurs. Sep. 30, 2010	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Sat. Oct. 2, 2010	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sun. Oct. 10, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Sat. Nov. 13, 2010	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sun. Nov. 14, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Tues. Nov. 30, 2010	20:00	Linwood VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Sun. Dec. 12, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Tues. Jan. 25, 2011	20:00	Absecon VFC	Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn.
Thurs. Jan. 27, 2011	20:00	Oceanville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firemen's Death Benefit Fund

(Please email your event info to robert.mellon@atlanticcountyfireassoc.org)